

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today Senator GRASSLEY and I, along with our colleagues Senators HARKIN, LUGAR, OBAMA, HAGEL, and others, are submitting Senate Concurrent Resolution 3, the "25x25" Resolution, as we did last year, 25x25 is a critical vision for our energy future that will help reduce our dependence on foreign oil by building a new energy economy here at home. Our resolution establishes a national goal of producing 25 percent of America's energy from renewable sources—like solar, wind and biofuels—by 2025.

The "25x25" vision is widely endorsed, bold, and fully attainable. If implemented, it would dramatically improve our energy security, our economy, and our ability to protect the environment.

I am pleased that more than 20 of my colleagues in the Senate, from both sides of the aisle, are cosponsoring this resolution. In addition, the "25x25" vision has been endorsed by 22 current and former governors and several State legislatures across the country.

The Big Three automobile manufacturers—Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors—are all behind "25x25." So are many agricultural organizations, environmental groups, scientists, and businesses, ranging from the Farm Bureau and Farmers' Union to the Natural Resources Defense Council and John Deere. The breadth of support for the "25x25" vision speaks to the extraordinary economic, environmental, and national security benefits that its implementation will yield. In all, nearly 400 organizations have embraced this vision and are working together on a plan to implement it.

The resolution that Senator GRASSLEY and I are submitting makes the "25x25" vision a policy goal for our Nation. It sets a challenging but realistic target for our legislative and budgetary work on energy. Our resolution says that the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of the American people should be the engine for a new, clean energy economy.

I urge every American to join with me and the roughly 400 partner organizations that are part of the 25x25 Alliance to make this goal a reality. Results from a recent study conducted by the University of Tennessee shows that reaching the 25x25 goal is achievable. The study also shows that 25x25 would: increase net farm income by \$180 billion and, including multiplier effects, could result in \$700 billion in economic activity annually; create approximately 5 million new jobs here at home in 2025; save as much as \$15 billion in government payments.

America's working people can and should be at the center of our energy revolution. Farmers and ranchers in my native San Luis Valley, in Sterling, CO, and elsewhere are already leading the way; they are building biodiesel plants and ethanol refineries that help power cars, tractors, and trucks. They are building wind turbines in Prowers

County and biomass generators in Jackson County. And they are searching for new technologies that will allow them to make even greater contributions to our energy supply.

These Americans understand that we cannot continue to import 60 percent of our oil from foreign countries, many of which are hostile to the United States, if we aim to be strong and secure in the world. They know that we will have to build a clean energy economy if we are to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

A clean energy economy will take root in our farms and fields. It will help revitalize a rural America that has been forgotten for too long. It will spur our engineers to new developments and designs, and it will help establish the U.S. as the world leader in clean energy technologies.

It is time for Congress to take a more active role in our clean energy future. Establishing a national goal—"25x25" is the first step.

Today, with this resolution, we articulate a common vision for our energy policy. It is a target we can hit. It is a target that Governors, Senators, Representatives, state legislators, farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, scientists, and automakers, all wish to achieve.

I am proud to be working with Senator GRASSLEY and others to establish "25x25" as our Nation's shared goal for our energy security and I look forward to working on a legislative agenda in this Congress that will help us reach that target.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator SALAZAR in introducing a concurrent resolution which expresses the goal of the United States to provide 25 percent of the Nation's energy needs from renewable resources by 2025.

The goal of this 25 by 25 resolution is quite simple: to replace 25 percent of our total energy needs with renewable resources like wind, hydropower, solar, geothermal, biomass and biofuels by 2025. This is a bold goal, but given our current energy situation in the U.S., it is a necessary goal.

The impact of increased energy prices is being felt around the country by working families, farmers, businesses and industries. The increased cost for energy at the pump, in home heating and for industrial uses has the potential to jeopardize our economic security and vitality.

Our effort with this concurrent resolution is to signal to America's farmers, ranchers and forestry industry, that we believe they have the ability and resources to generate 25 percent of our energy needs. And, that it's in our economic and national security interest to do so.

There are many inherent virtues in producing our own domestic energy from renewable resources. It is good for our environment. It is good for our national and economic security. It will provide an economic boost for our rural

economies. And perhaps most importantly, it will ensure a stable, secure, domestic supply of affordable energy.

Already, our farmers and ranchers are working hard to use their resources to produce electricity from wind, biomass and other agricultural wastes. In addition, corn, soybeans and other crops are being used to produce transportation fuels like ethanol and biodiesel. It is evident that rural America has the drive to achieve this goal.

While this concurrent resolution states our renewable energy goal, it does not prescribe a way to achieve the goal. Rather, it recognizes the benefit of implementing supportive policies and incentives to stimulate the development and use of renewable energy. It also identifies the benefits of technological improvements to the cost and market appeal of renewable energy.

The supporters of this goal commit to support sensible policies and proper incentives to work toward the goal. I am hopeful that my colleagues will recognize the importance of this effort, and will consider supporting us in this goal to produce 25 percent of our energy needs from renewable resources by 2025.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to organize for the 110th Congress by electing the chairman and vice chairman of the committee and to adopt the rules of the committee and any other organizational business the committee needs to consider.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and areas available for leasing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Patty Beneke at (202) 224-5451 or David Marks at (202) 224-8046.